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ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 A-01 ADS-00 ONY-00 PC-05 SSO-00 SS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6091

UNCLAS KIGALI 01405

PEACE CORPS FOR AF/DIRECTOR ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT FOR AF/C DIRECTOR RENDOR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, PREL, RW
SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS CLOSING IN RWANDA

REF: KIGALI 1037

1. RWANDA IS ENTERING A CRITICAL PERIOD IN ITS TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM. PEACE CORPS HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS IN SUCH AREAS AS EDUCATION, INCOME GENERATION, AND DEMONSTRATING DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN DAILY PRACTICE. THE PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTION IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE MISSION'S STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES OF PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN RWANDA.

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2. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE REACHED MARCH 31, THE AGREED DATE FOR DECIDING ABOUT A SUMMER START-UP, WITHOUT HAVING TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS IN PLACE. RWANDA CAME VERY CLOSE TO MEETING THIS CRITERIA. THE COUNTRY HAS REMAINED CALM. WE ARE WITHIN A HAIR'S BREATH OF RESOLVING THE OUTSTANDING POLITICAL IMPASSE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET TOLD US MARCH 30 THAT THIS FRIDAY OR SATURDAY WERE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 20 NOV 2002 200003723

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REALISTIC NEW TARGET DATES FOR INSTALLING THE INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, AN EXCHANGE OF VENGEANCE KILLINGS WITH POLITICAL AND ETHNIC OVERTONES IN A KIGALI NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OF MARCH 30 (SEPTEL) PUTS THAT HOPE IN JEOPARDY.

3. I APPRECIATE THE ADDITIONAL TIME PEACE CORPS OFFERED TO SEE WHETHER THE RWANDANS WOULD MEET OUR CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM RENEWAL. I RECOGNIZE, THOUGH, THAT TIME HAS RUN OUT FOR PLANNING PROGRAM START-UP FOR THIS JUNE.

4. PEACE CORPS' OFFER TO LOOK AT RENEWING THE PROGRAM IN RWANDA ONCE A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IS IN PLACE AND FUNCTIONING IS MOST WELCOME. AN APPROPRIATE REVIEW TIME WOULD BE IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS, OR BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. IN THE INTERIM, IN ANTICIPATION OF A POSITIVE REVIEW, THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE USE OF THE TAX-PAYERS' DOLLARS WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN PROGRAM SUSPENSION, AND RETAIN THE OFFICE AND A MINIMAL CORE LOCAL STAFF, WITH PROPERTY WAREHOUSED IN THE LARGE EMBASSY WAREHOUSE FACILITY. I VALUE YOUR VIEWS AND REACTIONS TO THIS

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SUGGESTION.

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